jistMay SIR ANTHONY SHIRLEY

Sir Anthony Shirley abideth still at Venice, in the utmost extremity, protesting that he is persecuted by those from whom he should have expected comfort The merchants there are forbidden to speak to him or his, and when he sent to the French King for letters to the French consul at Cairo about his return to Persia, Mr Wotton told the King that letters had been sent against him by the Queen and the Council He would have his actions considered apart from the Earl of Essex (by whom he was set out) and to be judged by their merits, if it be otherwise then may he be compelled by desperation to leap into precipitate courses with the Spaniards

ist June THE SOLDIERS AT BRISTOL

The commissioners that were sent to view the 800 men sent out of 12 shires to Bristol declare that intolerable hindrances are offered to the service, there was never man beheld such strange creatures brought to any muster They were most of them either old, lame, diseased, boys or common rogues Few of them had any clothes , small, weak, starved bodies taken up in fairs, markets and highways to supply the places of better men at home , and if there were any better than the rest, they are found to have been set forth by malice

On the 26th of May there was committed by the Gloucester-shire men a great mutiny, which was overruled by the commis-sioners Their course was to take one of the troop and commit him, commanding all the rest to their quarters Then the whole company, set on by one lewd fellow, protested they would die but they would have their fellow again , but they took "hvm also and both were carried to prison The rest made show of going to their quarters, but waited their

opportunity and set upon the officers that were guarding the prisoners, but they were beaten back and another of then* chiefs taken All that night they were strongly guarded, and a preacher was sent to the prisoners to prepare themselves to die in the morning When the time was come, they were brought to the place of execution with halters about their necks and caused to go up the ladders, all the troops standing by After they had said their prayers and expected no hie, the commissioners caused